

1 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

2 Date:

3 Subject: Elections; local elections; local elections using the Australian ballot
4 system; use of Australian ballot for the election of any or all offices

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize
6 municipalities to adopt the Australian ballot for the election of candidates to
7 any or all municipal offices.

8 An act relating to the use of the Australian ballot system in local elections

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2680 is amended to read:

11 § 2680. AUSTRALIAN BALLOT SYSTEM; GENERAL

12 * * *

13 (b) Officers. Once a municipality votes to elect any or all officers by the
14 Australian ballot system, ~~such~~ the officers shall be elected in that manner until
15 the municipality votes to discontinue use of the system. A vote on whether to
16 use the Australian ballot system to elect officers shall be in substantially the
17 following form:

18 (1) “Shall (name of municipality) elect its (specify the municipal officer
19 or officers to be elected) by Australian ballot?” or

1 (2) “Shall (name of municipality) elect all municipal officers by
2 Australian ballot?”

3 * * *

4 Sec. 2. VALIDITY OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS USING THE
5 AUSTRALIAN BALLOT SYSTEM

6 (a) This act shall not render invalid the election of any municipal officer at
7 a 2025 annual municipal meeting. The failure of a municipality to comply
8 with the procedures required by this act or the prior provisions of 17 V.S.A.
9 § 2680(b) shall not be the basis for any action related to the election of a
10 municipal officer at a municipality’s annual meeting in 2025.

11 (b) The validity of a vote by a municipality to elect some, but not all,
12 municipal officers prior to the effective date of this act shall not be subject to
13 challenge for failure to comply with this act or the prior provisions of
14 17 V.S.A. § 2680(b). In any municipality that voted to elect some, but not all,
15 municipal officers prior to the effective date of this act, the election of a
16 municipal officer shall not be subject to challenge for failure to comply with
17 this act or the prior provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2680(b).

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.